



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

The author has had, so he states in his preface, "much experience at first hand with the actual administration of public fiscal affairs." Yet, in spite of this, the entire book is overscholastic, even to the bibliography, in which thirty-four sources are named, nineteen being in English and the remaining fifteen being in Italian, French, and German. This bibliography contains no references whatever to the reports of the special tax commissions or of the permanent tax commissions of our American states: This is an inexcusable omission. The special reports from California and Massachusetts, and the regular reports from Wisconsin and Minnesota should at least have been mentioned, to say nothing of the other states. These reports are not of mere evanescent interest; they are our real classics in taxation; they are actual contributions to the world's literature on this subject.

The author pays too scant attention to permanent state tax commissions. Only one is mentioned as a type, that of Indiana. This treatment is not only inadequate, it is misleading.

The student in elementary public finance will look in vain for a few simple yet important things, such as an actual budget of the nation, state, city, or county. And after all this is what the American student wants to know first, before he takes up the problems of other countries and other ages. The treatment of these simple, elementary things Plehn has sacrificed to a treatment of "the graduated digression of the Prussian income tax."

JAMES E. BOYLE.

University of North Dakota.

Sixty Years of Protection in Canada. (1846-1907). Where Industry Leans on the Politician. by EDWARD PORRITT.
(London: The Macmillan Company. 1908. Pp. xii, 478.)

This is a very thorough and deliberate piece of work written by an able journalist whose interest in the subject is rather political than economic. It bears evidence of painstaking research among original documents, official reports, and parliamentary debates; and while very detailed in recounting the tariff history of Canada, loses none of its attractiveness as a popular presentation of a serious subject.

Quite naturally Mr. Porritt traces the beginning of Canadian tariff policy to the repeal of the corn laws in England, which brought with it fiscal freedom for Canada. The revolutionary change which was hailed with joy by the great masses of English people, as marking the advent of a free trade era throughout the world and as a triumph of democracy against a privileged order, had the very opposite effect in Canada, whose grain merchants and lumber dealers looked with dismay upon the loss of preference which their products had enjoyed in British markets as against all foreign countries under the preferential rates, which Great Britain extended to her colonies. The Quebec Board of Trade, for example, solemnly warned the British government that the termination of preferences "would gradually, silently, imperceptibly wean Canadians from their true allegiance to Great Britain, and bias their minds in favor of a closer connection with the United States" (page 54).

As the author shows, however, in succeeding chapters, the annexation movement never reached a serious stage; neither did the movement for free trade advocated by John Young, who organized the Free Trade Association in 1846. Far more formidable was the movement for reciprocity with the United States, whose changing fortunes played an important part in the politics of Canada for half a century, and sounded the key note in the relations between the two neighboring countries.

The history of the reciprocity movement is traced in great detail from its inception in 1846, when the first steps were taken for the conclusion of the Elgin-Marcy Treaty, and when Canada played the part of the ardent wooer for the favors of its more or less indifferent neighbor to the south, to the abortive and half hearted attempts made at the close of the last century. Mr. Porritt impartially divides the blame for the failure to renew the reciprocity treaty after its termination in 1866, between the protectionists of Canada, who tried to confine reciprocal free trade with the United States to natural products, and the extreme opponents to close trade relations with Canada in the United States Senate. He shows how, aside from the natural irritation in the United States growing out of the attitude of England to the South during the Civil War, the abrogation of the treaty was also caused by the successful efforts of the Canadian protectionists to increase the duties on manufactured American products which were not covered by the

Elgin-Marcy Treaty. Although it was recognized that Canada acted within her rights, it was felt that in raising these duties she was violating the spirit, if not the letter of the reciprocity treaty. From that time on, the numerous attempts on the part of Canada to revive the treaty shattered against the uniform insistence by the United States that manufactured products be included in reciprocal free trade between the neighboring countries. However, when this demand was finally complied with on the part of Canada in the draft of the treaty signed in Washington in 1874 by joint representatives of Great Britain, Canada, and the United States, the free list including every important natural product, practically the entire list of agricultural implements and tools, and thirty-seven of the most important of American manufactures, the treaty failed of ratification in the United States Senate. The next serious attempt made in 1892, shattered against the demand of Secretary Blaine, who, in the language of Lord Pauncefote, the British Ambassador to the United States, refused "to negotiate, except on a basis of free trade in natural and manufactured products, and a combined tariff against all other countries" (page 177), Great Britain included.

Even while the treaty with the United States was still in existence, the advocates of a "national policy," led by Buchanan, succeeded in having the first protective tariff adopted in 1858. The abrogation of the treaty in 1866 left the national policy advocates free to push with renewed vigor their campaign for increased protection. The Cayley tariff of 1858 raised the general range of duties to 20 per cent, with rates as high as 25 per cent on boots, harness, and clothing. The tariff of 1879 which marked the triumph of the conservative party, the champion party of protection, prior to the advent of the Liberal party to power in 1896, raised the rate as high as 40 per cent (page 318). The chief argument used by Mr. Tilley, minister of finance, for the higher rates, was the dumping of goods in Canada by "Americans who had been wantonly using Canada as a slaughter and sacrifice market." The years 1858 and 1879 witnessed two general tariff revisions by the party of protection.

During the period that followed the enactment of the tariff of 1879 as well as the partial readjustments of that tariff upward, the Liberal party played the same part of opposition to the protective tariff, that the Democratic party was playing in the United States. After adopting a platform at its national convention in

1893, in which protection was denounced "as radically unsound and unjust to the masses of the people" (page 371), and was charged with having "decreased the value of the farm property," "oppressed the masses to the enrichment of the few," "checked immigration," "impeded commerce," and so forth, the Liberal party, upon coming into power, met with the same experience in attempting to revise the tariff in 1897 as the Democratic party did in 1894 in this country. The only serious departure in the tariff introduced by the Liberals was the preferential treatment of British goods, which was gradually raised to $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. The author traces the growing influence of the manufacturers in the councils of the Liberal party with the consequent second revision of the tariff by that party in 1907. This revision did away with the flat reduction of duties by one-third in favor of British imports, abolishing the preference entirely on some goods, making it but 10 per cent on others, and more than $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent on still others. A distinct innovation in the tariff of 1907, now in force, was the adoption of a triple tariff: a general, intermediate, and preferential, the last named being applicable to Great Britain and reciprocating British colonies; the intermediate, to reciprocating foreign countries, and the general (the highest), to all other foreign countries. The author does not mention that in addition to the duties under the general tariff, the Governor-in-Council is authorized to impose a surtax of $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of those duties on goods coming from countries discriminating against Canada. At present, Germany is the only country affected by this provision, although the beginning of the trouble between the two countries antedates the adoption of the present tariff.

Mr. Porritt believes that the Liberal party has gone farther than the Conservative in adopting a comprehensive scheme of protective legislation. The protective tariff has been supplemented by bounties to various industries (pages 399-405); by such legislation as the requirement that Canadian railroads receiving government subsidies must use rails manufactured in Canada (page 399); by the so-called working clause of the patent act which declares a patent null and void unless the manufacture of the invention in Canada is commenced within two years after the granting of the patent; finally, by the so-called anti-dumping clause which provides for the imposition of a special duty on goods sold in Can-

ada below the "fair market value" at which they are sold in the country of origin. The special duty is equal to the difference between the two prices and is levied in addition to the regular duty.

The author is frankly anti-protectionist and traces most of the political evils in Canada, especially political corruption, directly to the effects of the protective policy. The manufacturers of Canada, in his opinion, have become a "privilege order" (page 456) which shapes the policy of the country in its own interests no matter which party is in power. Even the idea that the tariff is an important means of cementing a great colonial empire is likewise rejected by the author who thus (page 466) sums up his view of the time-honored system:

"Tariff politics, in a word, are obviously and essentially the most unsocial and most provincial of petty politics. They set every man's hand against his neighbor; class against class; farmers and importers against manufacturers; coal producers against coal consumers; province against province; and colonial manufacturers against manufacturers in the motherland. They are, moreover, utterly antagonistic to any neighborly policy among nations, or to any large conception of Empire."

N. I. STONE.

Washington, D. C.

Report on National Vitality: Its Wastes and Conservation. Prepared for the National Conservation Commission by IRVING FISHER, Professor of Political Economy in Yale University. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1909. ix, 138.)

It is fortunate that this valuable monograph, which is now issued as Bulletin 30 of the Committee of One Hundred on National Health, will find more readers than those who would have happened upon it in the reports of the National Conservation Commission. It is distinctly the best general statement in print of the aims, methods, and achieved results of the public health movement. It brings together in a well-organized, closely knit, and yet distinctly readable discussion such matters as the causes of excessive mortality, of serious illnesses, of minor ailments,